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LETTER DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 1992 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

You will have seen that in paragraph 11 of my report of today's date on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (S/24540) I have proposed that the Security Council should give the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) authority to provide protection to convoys of persons released from the detention camps in Bosnia and Herzegovina, if the International Committee of the Red Cross should so request and if the Force Commander should judge the request to be practicable.

I have today received from Mr. Cyrus Vance a cable in which he asks that, pending the Security Council's approval of the recommendation in my report, I should seek the Council's authority, on an exceptional basis, for UNPROFOR to use its existing resources to protect some 4,000 or more Muslim and Croat detainees who are expected to be released shortly from Serb detention camps at Manjaca and Trnopolje in the northern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to be taken, at their wish, to transit facilities in Croatia. The Croatian authorities have agreed to this arrangement.

Both the camps concerned are within 50 kilometres of UNPROFOR units already deployed in Croatia, which makes it possible for UNPROFOR to provide limited assistance in accompanying land convoys from those camps to Croatia. I would like to underline, however, that such assistance by UNPROFOR to convoys of persons released from more distant camps would have to await the deployment of the additional units recommended in my report.

Mr. Vance has underlined the urgent need, on humanitarian grounds, for the detainees at Manjaca and Trnopolje to be enabled to leave Bosnia and Herzegovina in safety and I propose to instruct the Force Commander to proceed accordingly.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

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